

Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?

Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).

If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.

We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.

Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?

Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.

James 1:1-12

Message Notes
September 30, 2018

Personal Reconciliation
Philemon
Lindsay Kennedy

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS

1. Does Paul want Philemon's blind obedience, or willingness (v14)? What does this tell us about God's desire from us?
2. With what primary label does Paul want Philemon to view Onesimus (v16)?
3. What does Paul most want Philemon to do with Onesimus (v17)?
4. In what ways is Paul emulating Jesus in this letter (v18-19)? How can we imitate his example?
5. Read Philippians 2:1-11. How is Phil 2:6-11 used as an example for believers to follow the commands of Phil 2:1-5?
6. Read Matthew 18:15-22. How do these verses set out some broad guidelines for dealing with others who sin against us? What should we do if they are unwilling? How do these guidelines protect both the accuser and accused, while allowing for the chance of repentance and restored relationships?
7. Are there any complicated situations that could require us to adjust the procedures in the above verses?
8. Read Romans 12:19. If the other party is still hostile and unwilling to reconcile, what should our attitude be? Should we hold on to bitterness? Should we avenge ourselves?
9. What implications does Romans 12:19 have for our faith in justice and our belief in God's concern for us?
10. Read Matthew 6:14-15. How should we think about bitterness? How seriously should we treat it?
11. Read 1 John 1:6-2:2. What do these verses tell us about our own need for forgiveness and the hope we have?
12. Take some time to pray and contemplate your own heart. Are you guilty of any sin? Have you sinned against another? Have you pursued repentance and reconciliation? If you are a victim of sin, are you closed to that person and unwilling for reconciliation?
13. Are you aware of any in your community who need help for reconciliation? How could you follow Paul (and Christ's!) example in this situation? Is God calling you to gently and wisely involve yourself in the situation in order to bring peace?